

**ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention provides a method of identifying a preferred liver transplant donor. The method includes the step of determining in an individual 5 the presence or absence of a preferred genotype at a polymorphic site, where the preferred genotype is associated with altered activity of a tumor necrosis factor, and wherein the presence of the preferred genotype indicates that the individual is a preferred 10 liver transplant donor. A preferred genotype can be associated with lower activity of a tumor necrosis factor such as TNF- $\alpha$  and can be, for example, TNF308.1. The methods of the invention are useful for identifying a preferred donor liver for transplant into a HCV infected 15 patient. The invention additionally provides a method for selecting a preferred liver for transplantation. The invention further provides a method for limiting the recurrence of HCV infection in a liver transplant recipient.

PCT/US2003/02020